

MARVEL

008

POE

STAR WARS



DAMERON



SOULE
NOTO

Book III, Part I

THE GATHERING STORM

It is a time of uncertainty in the galaxy. Standing against the oppression of the First Order is General Organa's Resistance, including Poe Dameron and his team of ace pilots—Black Squadron.

After undertaking a mission to find the explorer Lor San Tekka, a new enemy has emerged: Terex, an officer of the First Order Security Bureau. Though Poe's crew of pilots has managed to survive multiple encounters, Terex has vowed to destroy them.

Meanwhile, shadows gather around Poe, as he has become increasingly certain that a member of Black Squadron is feeding information to the First Order about the Resistance and its allies, and darkness continues to spread across the galaxy....

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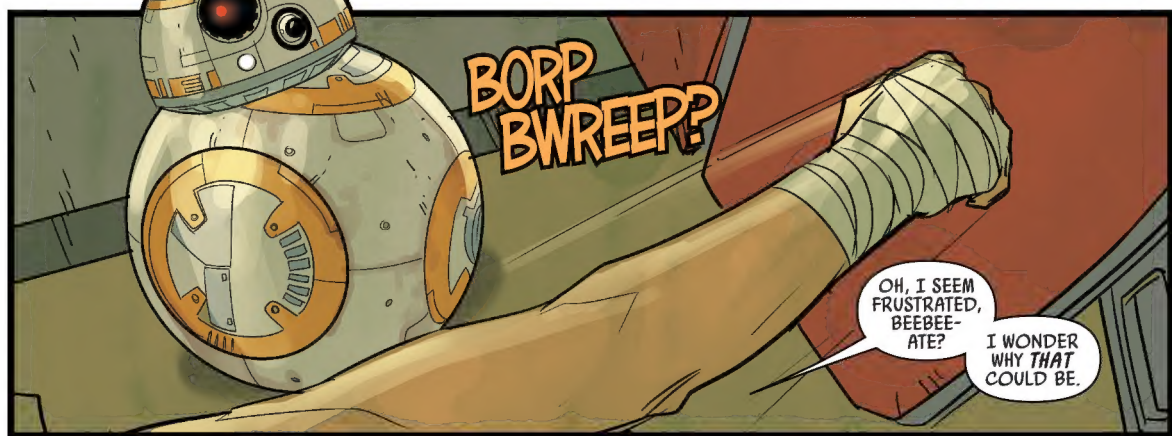
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The Planet D'Qar.
Secret Headquarters
of the Resistance.





TEREX.

HE'S GOT
A SOURCE INSIDE
THE RESISTANCE...
INSIDE **BLACK
SQUADRON**,
PROBABLY.

AND THAT,
MY FRIEND, AIN'T
GOOD.

THD!



"I'VE BEEN GOING
THROUGH MISSION
DATAFILES, LOOKING FOR
ANYTHING THAT STICKS OUT
FROM OUR TIME ON OVANIS
AND MEGALOX BETA.

"I'M LOOKING
AT **EVERYONE.**"

L'ulo.

FINGER
SLIPPED.



WHP!

I **HATE**
IT. I'VE KNOWN
L'ULO SINCE I
WAS A KID.

EVEN
THINKING
HE MIGHT HAVE
BETRAYED US MAKES
ME WANT TO
THROW UP.



"KARE AND I FLEW
TOGETHER IN THE
REPUBLIC NAVY. GENERAL
ORGANA RECRUITED US
TO THE RESISTANCE AT
THE SAME TIME. I **KNOW**
SHE'S LOYAL.

"BUT THEN I THINK ABOUT
THINGS...LIKE HOW DID SHE
KNOW HOW TO GET TO
GRAKKUS' PALACE ON MEGALOX
BETA? SHE LED US RIGHT TO IT."

THERE!
THAT WAY!

Karé Kun.



THESE
PEOPLE ARE
MY **FRIENDS**.
MY **FAMILY**.

AND NOW
TEREX HAS ME
THINKING ABOUT
THEM LIKE
CRIMINALS.

KRCK!



"IF ONE OF THEM IS A TRAITOR, IT MEANS THEY'VE BEEN LYING TO MY FACE."

"PRETENDING THEY'RE WORRIED. PRETENDING THEY CARE. PRETENDING THEY DON'T KNOW THE TRUTH."

Temmin
"Snap"
Wexley.

HOW DID TEREX GET HERE FIRST?



SO NOW I'M SECOND-GUESSING EVERYTHING ALL OF THEM HAVE DONE SINCE WE FORMED THE SQUADRON.

SLAM!



"WERE THEY REALLY TRYING TO HELP, OR WAS IT ALL PART OF SOME PLAN?"

"JUST ANOTHER LIE?"

Jessika
Pava.

DON'T WORRY. I GOT THIS.



I CAN'T TRUST MY OWN SQUADRON.

MAKES ME SAD. MAKES ME ANGRY. AND YOU KNOW WHAT?

"IT'S ALL
TEREX'S
FAULT."

The
Carrian
Spike.



REPAIRS
ARE NEARLY
COMPLETE,
AGENT TEREX.

THE SPIKE
SHOULD BE
BATTLE-READY
IN LESS THAN
A DAY.

HNH.



SIR? DID YOU HAVE ORDERS?
THE CREW IS...AH...WONDERING
HOW LONG WE ARE GOING
TO REMAIN HERE.

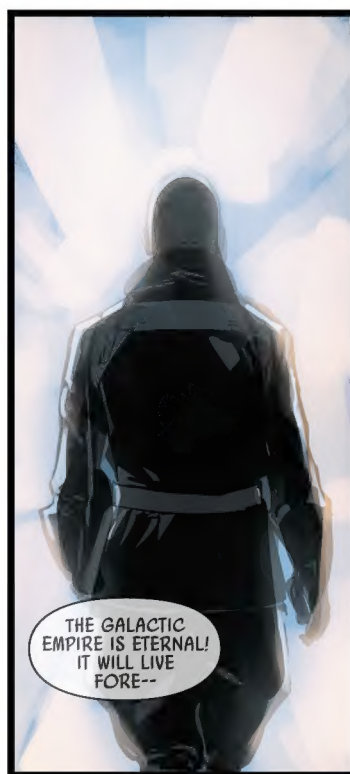
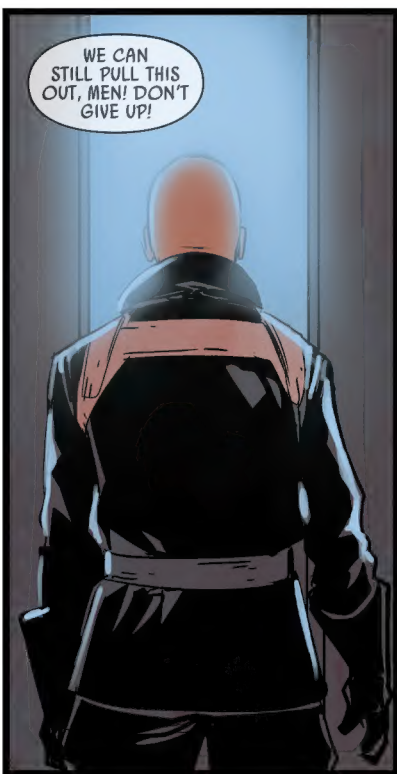
WE'RE WELL
OUTSIDE FIRST
ORDER SPACE,
AND--

I KNOW
HOW FAR WE ARE
FROM THE FIRST
ORDER, CORPORAL.
THAT IS ENTIRELY
THE POINT.



I'LL
BE IN MY
CHAMBER.





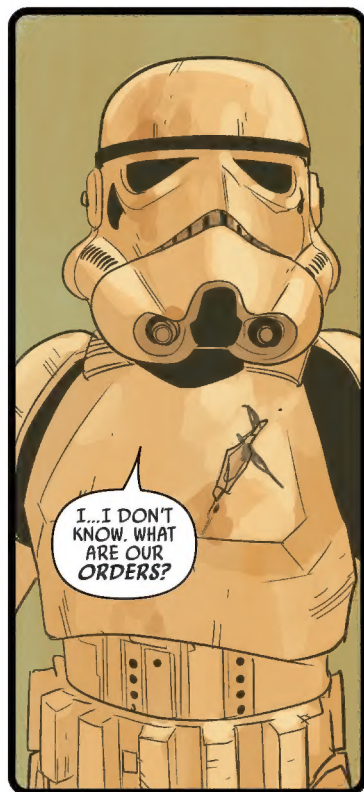
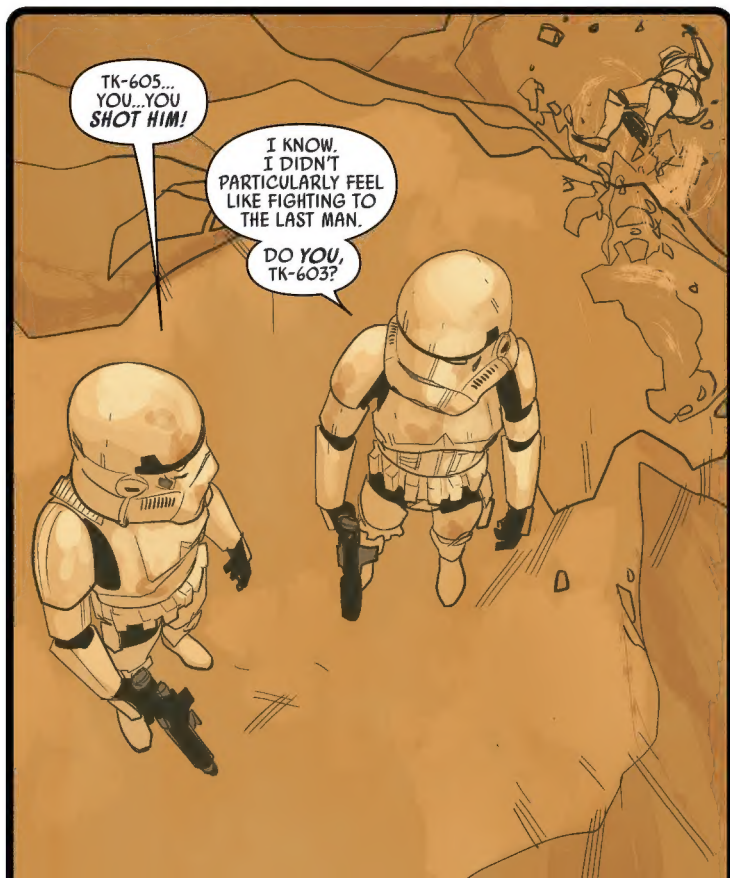
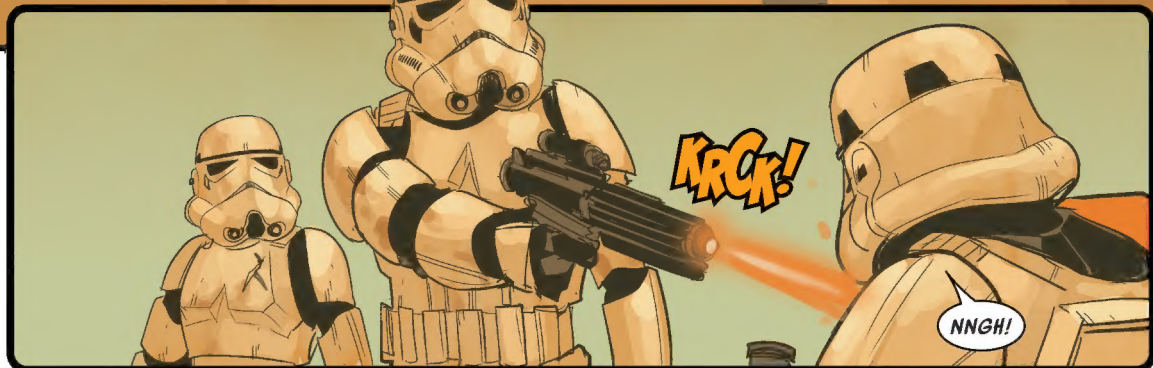
Jakku.
The End of the Empire.
Years Ago...

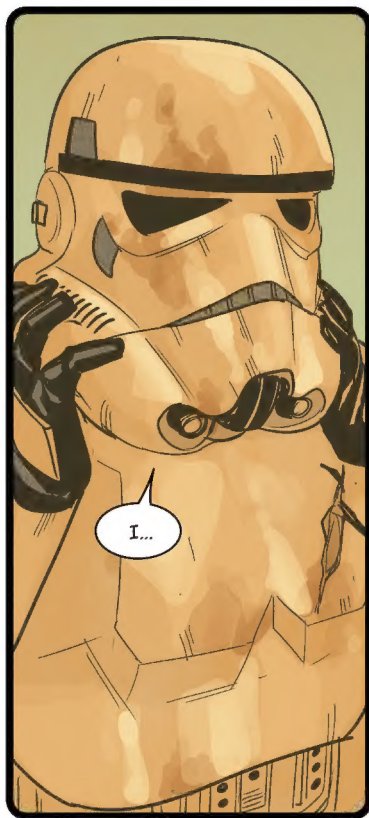


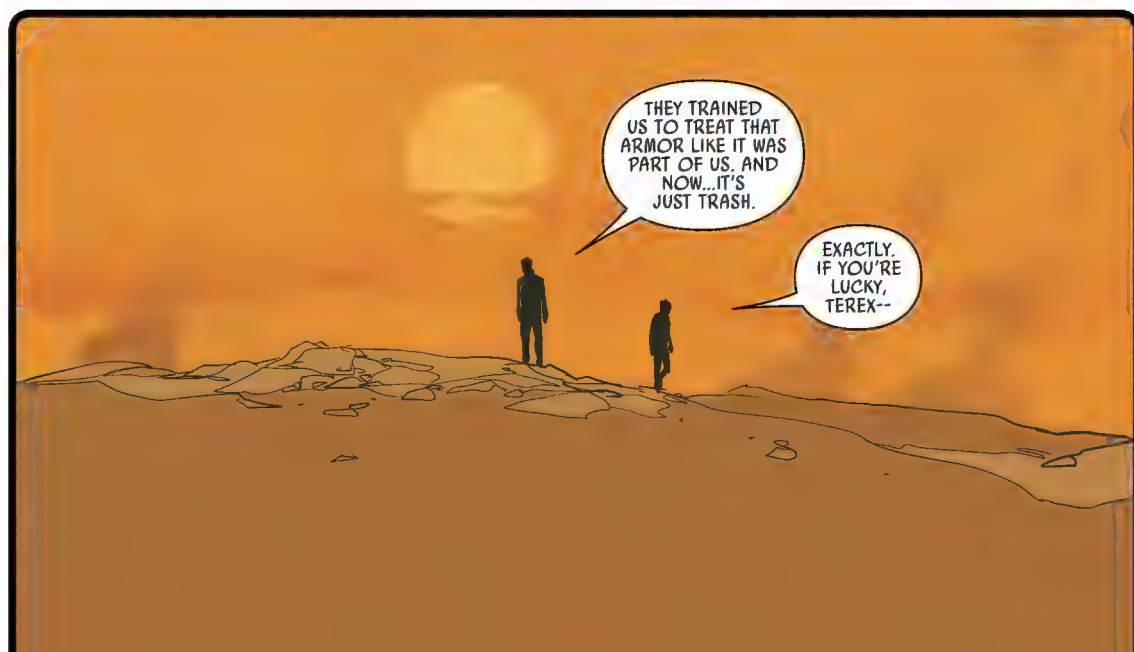
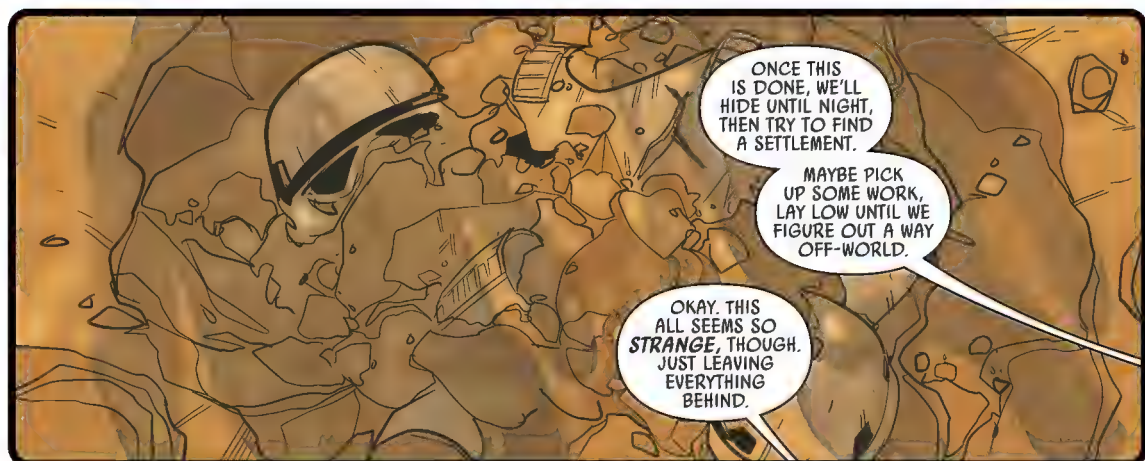
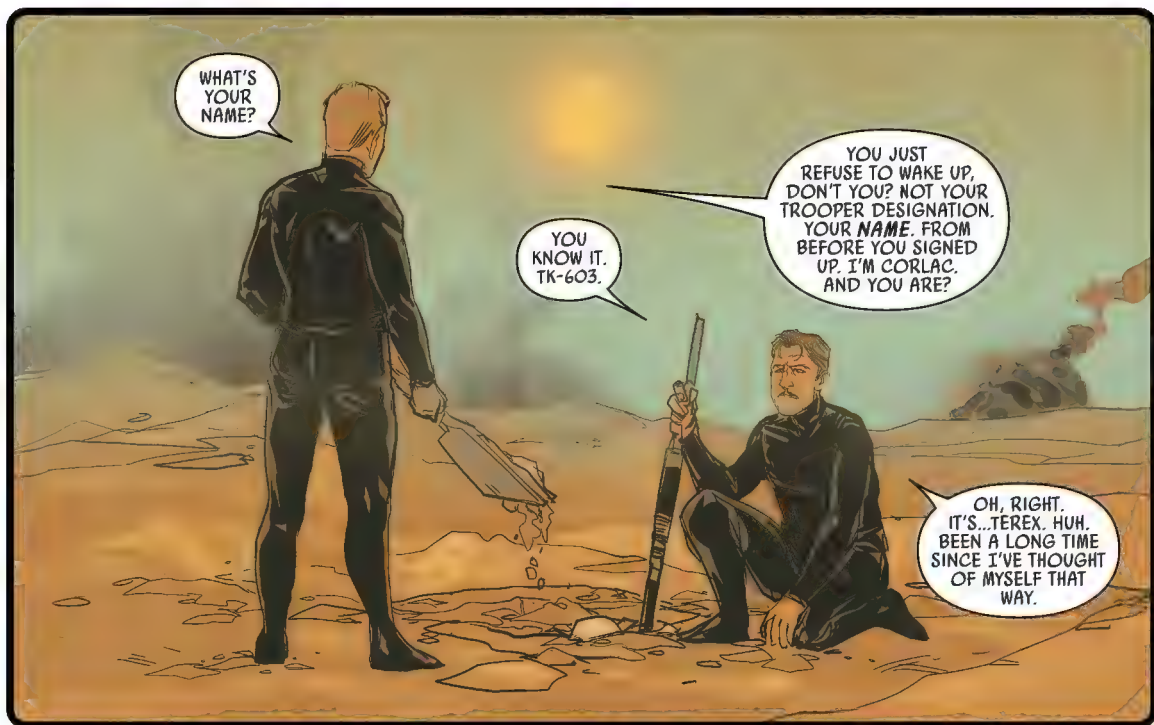
MRAAAMOOOM!

Jakku.
The End of the Empire.
Years Ago...

A dramatic illustration of a city on fire. The scene is set in a desert environment with a large, multi-story building engulfed in flames and smoke. The sky is a hazy, light blue. In the foreground, there are several smaller structures, some of which are also on fire. A large, stylized sound effect, "MRAAAMOOOM!", is overlaid across the center of the image. The overall tone is one of destruction and chaos.







"--YOU'LL
NEVER SEE THAT
ARMOR AGAIN."





BREEEP
BROO.

I THINK
THAT DOES
IT, POE.

GREAT. BEEBEE,
RUN A DIAGNOSTIC ON
THE PORT STABILIZERS.
MAKE SURE WE'RE
GOOD.



BREEEEE-
WORP!

WOW,
SIGNAL'S COMING BACK
PERFECT. THANKS, ODDY.
YOU'RE A JEDI WITH THIS
STUFF. BEST TECH ON
THE BASE.

WELL, I
DON'T KNOW
ABOUT
THAT.



I DO. TELL YOU
WHAT--HOW ABOUT YOU
TAKE HER UP FOR A SPIN?
MAKE SURE EVERYTHING
WORKS THE WAY IT'S
SUPPOSED TO.

WAIT, **YOUR**
SHIP? YOU'RE
GOING TO LET
ME FLY **YOUR**
SHIP?

LOOKS
THAT WAY. THE
RESISTANCE IS GONNA
GET YOU YOUR OWN
FIGHTER ONE OF THESE
DAYS, AND YOU'LL NEED
SOME TIME UNDER YOUR
BELT ON SOMETHING
BETTER THAN A
TRAINING SIM.

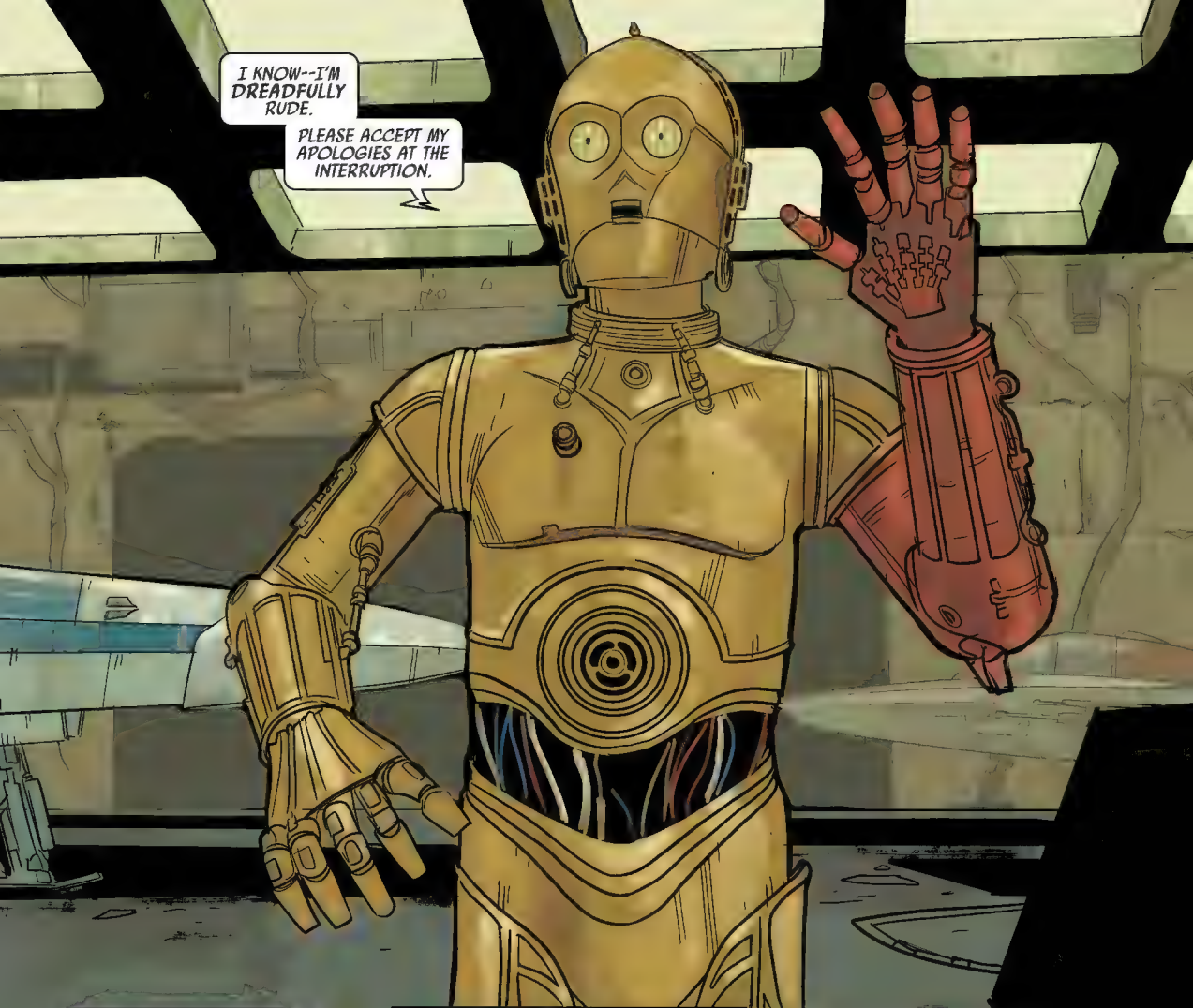


THANK YOU, POE. I
SWEAR I'LL KEEP IT SAFE.
NOT EVEN A DENT.
YOU'RE THE BEST.

WELL,
I DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT
TH--



PARDON ME, MR.
DAMERON, BUT
MIGHT I HAVE A
WORD?



I KNOW--I'M DREADFULLY RUDE.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES AT THE INTERRUPTION.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, THREEPIO. WE'RE PRETTY MUCH DONE. BUT PLEASE, PLEASE, JUST POE.

I DON'T KNOW WHO MR. DAMERON'S SUPPOSED TO BE, BUT IT DOESN'T SOUND MUCH LIKE ME.

OH, BUT POE SEEMS DREADFULLY FAMILIAR, DOESN'T IT? PERHAPS WE MIGHT COMPROMISE ON SIR, SIR?

FINE, PAL. WHATEVER YOU WANT. WHAT'S UP?

GENERAL ORGANA ASKED ME TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT SOME POTENTIALLY CRUCIAL INFORMATION I JUST RECEIVED.

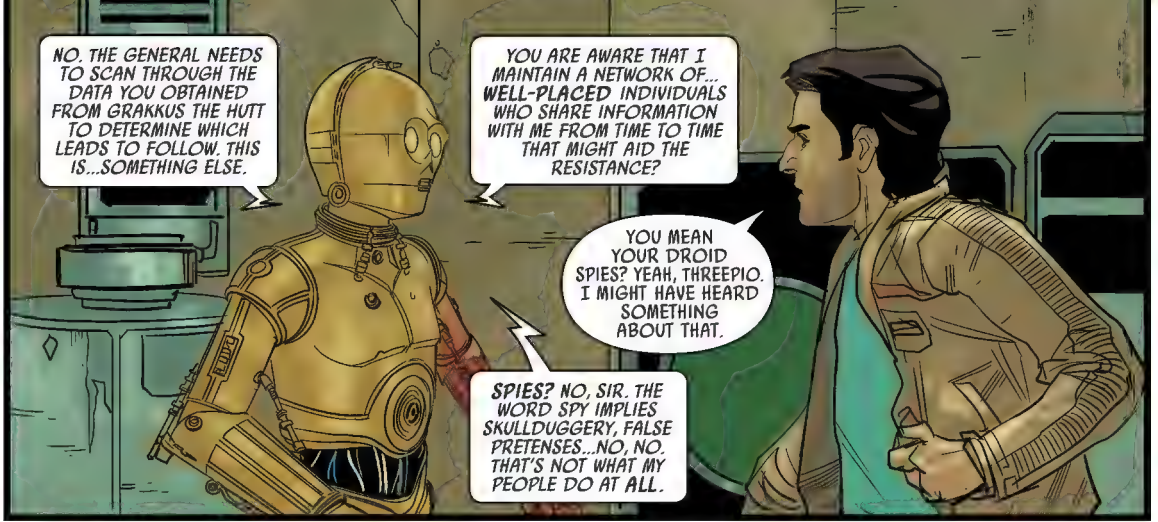
SHALL WE STEP THIS WAY, SO WE MIGHT SPEAK IN PRIVATE?

THANK YOU, SIR. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND. THE DATA I NEED TO SHARE WITH YOU IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE.

YOU'RE GETTING PARANOID, THREEPIO. ODDY MUVA'S ABOUT THE ONLY PERSON ON THIS BASE I DO FEEL LIKE I CAN TRUST.

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY, YOU SEE. THAT'S BEEN MY MOTTO FOR A VERY LONG TIME. IT'S NEVER STEERED ME WRONG.

UH-HUH. SO, WHAT'VE YOU GOT? ARE WE STILL GOING AFTER LOR SAN TEKKA?



NO. THE GENERAL NEEDS TO SCAN THROUGH THE DATA YOU OBTAINED FROM GRAKKUS THE HUTT TO DETERMINE WHICH LEADS TO FOLLOW. THIS IS...SOMETHING ELSE.

YOU ARE AWARE THAT I MAINTAIN A NETWORK OF... WELL-PLACED INDIVIDUALS WHO SHARE INFORMATION WITH ME FROM TIME TO TIME THAT MIGHT AID THE RESISTANCE?

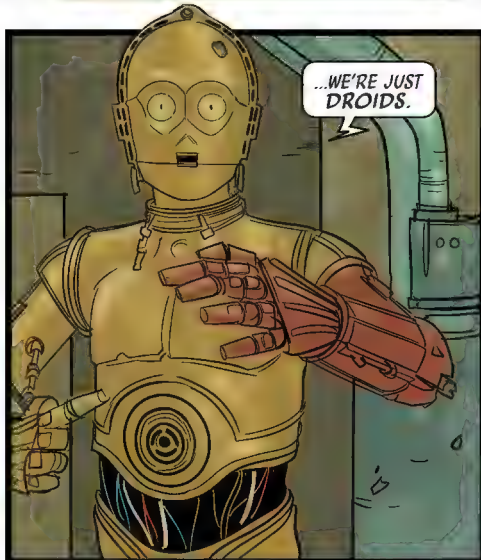
YOU MEAN YOUR DROID SPIES? YEAH, THREEPIO. I MIGHT HAVE HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.

SPIES? NO, SIR. THE WORD SPY IMPLIES SKULDUGGERY, FALSE PRETENSES...NO, NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT MY PEOPLE DO AT ALL.

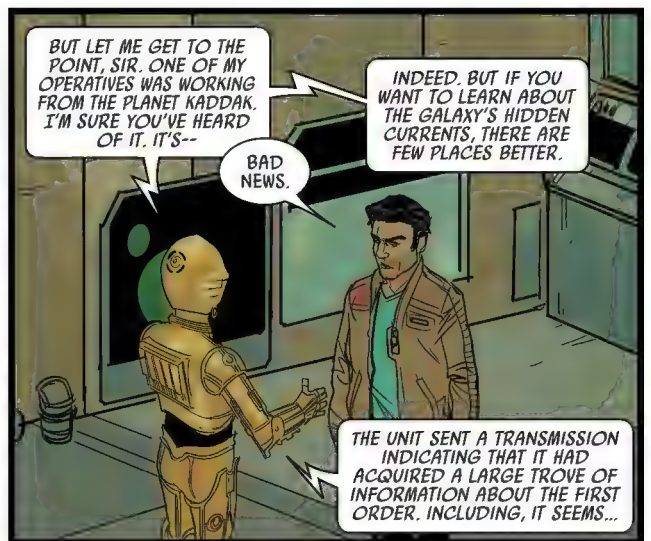


"YOU SEE, DROIDS ARE EVERYWHERE. WE DON'T HAVE TO SNEAK. OUR VERY EXISTENCE GRANTS US ACCESS TO SOME OF THE MOST SENSITIVE SPOTS IN THE GALAXY.

"THIS BASE, FOR EXAMPLE. NO ONE PAYS ATTENTION, NO ONE CARES, AS LONG AS WE DO OUR DUTY WITH DILIGENCE AND PRECISION. AND WHY WOULD THEY? AFTER ALL..."



...WE'RE JUST DROIDS.



BUT LET ME GET TO THE POINT, SIR. ONE OF MY OPERATIVES WAS WORKING FROM THE PLANET KADDAK. I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD OF IT. IT'S--

BAD NEWS.

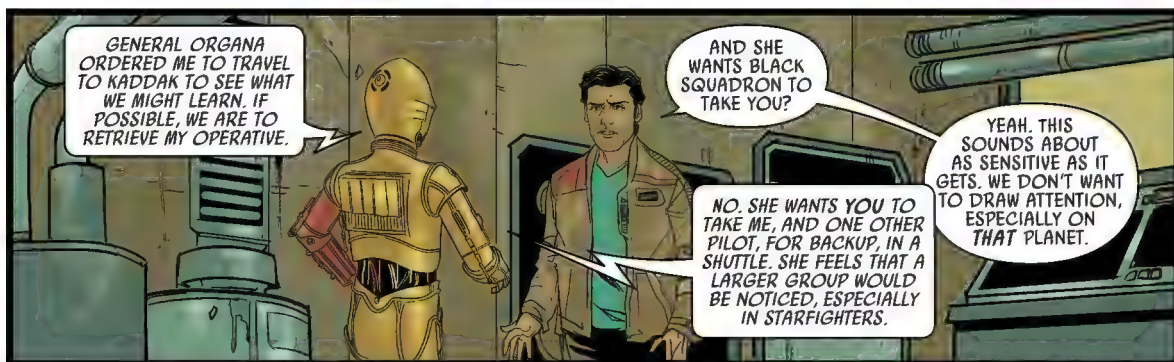
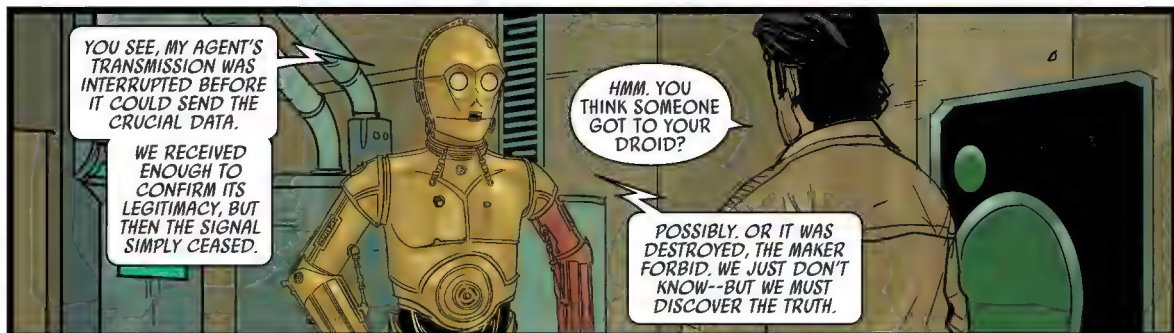
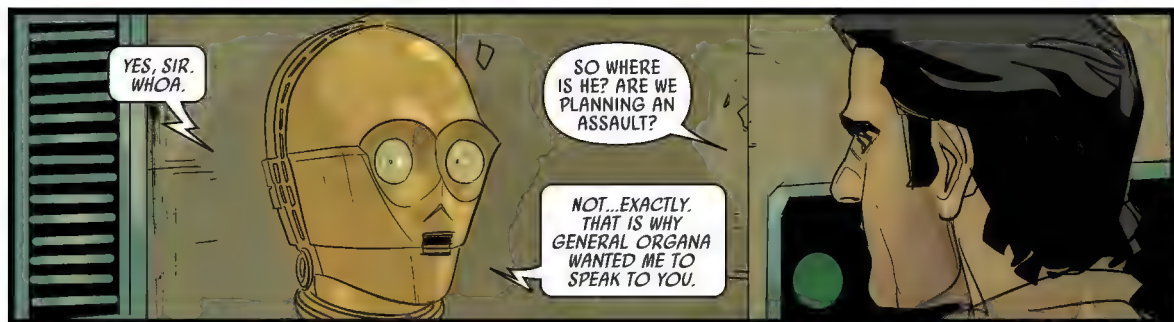
INDEED. BUT IF YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT THE GALAXY'S HIDDEN CURRENTS, THERE ARE FEW PLACES BETTER.

THE UNIT SENT A TRANSMISSION INDICATING THAT IT HAD ACQUIRED A LARGE TROVE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE FIRST ORDER. INCLUDING, IT SEEMS...



...THE CURRENT LOCATION OF SUPREME LEADER SNOKE.

WHOA.



The Carrion Spike.



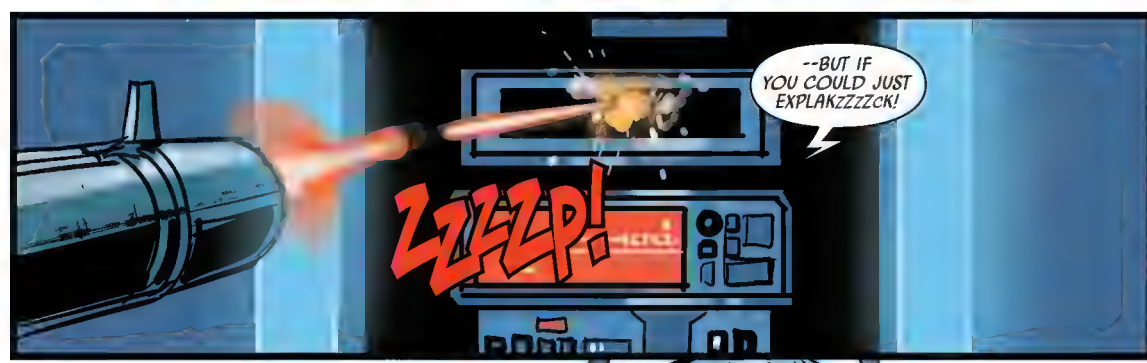
AGENT
TEREX, I'M SORRY
TO DISTURB YOU, BUT
WE'VE RECEIVED A PRIORITY
ONE TRANSMISSION
FROM CAPTAIN
PHASMA.

SHE...AH...
WANTS TO KNOW
WHY YOU HAVEN'T
FOLLOWED ORDERS
AND REPORTED FOR
DEBRIEFING?



SHE ASKED
FOR AN AFTER-ACTION
REPORT ON THE MISSION
TO MEGALOX BETA--WANTS
TO KNOW WHAT WE
OBTAINED FROM
GRAKKUS THE HUTT.

I WASN'T
SURE WHAT TO TELL
HER, SIR. I'M SURE
YOU HAVE YOUR
REASONS--



--BUT IF
YOU COULD JUST
EXPLAKZZZCK!



OVERRIDE
REQUEST
ACKNOWLEDGED.

DISABLING
COMMUNICATIONS,
ENGINES AND WEAPONS
SYSTEMS REQUIRES
COMMAND-LEVEL
AUTHORIZATION.

PLEASE
PROVIDE
AUTHORIZATION
CODE.



AUTHORIZATION
CODE TK-603.

CODE
ACCEPTED.
SYSTEMS
DISABLED.

Jakku.
Before...

LITTLE
FURTHER,
CORLAC. NICE
AND SLOW.

DON'T
WORRY, TEREX.
IT TOOK US THREE
MONTHS TO FIND THIS
PIECE. TOOK US A YEAR
OF SCRAMBLING ALL OVER
THIS DUST-HEAP TO FIND
THE REST. NOT GOING
TO SCREW IT
UP NOW.

THERE.
IT'S IN.
I'M COMING
DOWN.

KCHK!

I HAVE
TO SAY, THAT
IS ABOUT THE
UGLIEST SHIP
I'VE EVER
SEEN.

YEAH. BUT
IT'LL GET US
OFF THIS ROCK,
AND THAT'S ALL
I REALLY CARE
ABOUT.

YOU'RE A
HELL OF A PARTNER,
TEREX. I NEVER
WOULD HAVE THOUGHT
TO BUILD OUR OWN
SHIP, WOULDN'T HAVE
EVEN KNOWN WHERE TO
START. BUT YOU
JUST...MADE IT
HAPPEN.

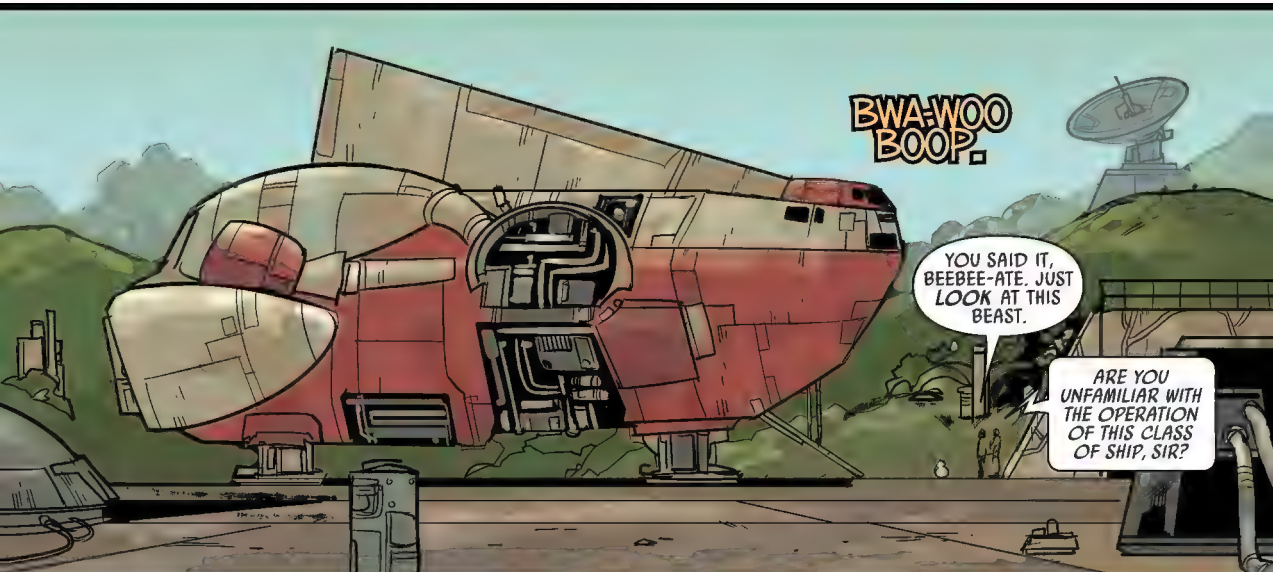
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT. WE'RE
SQUADMATES, AFTER
ALL. AND I'M
MOTIVATED.

WE NEED TO
FIGURE OUT WHERE THE
EMPIRE'S REGROUPING
AND MEET UP. DO OUR
PART TO PUT DOWN
THE REBELLION.

PUT DOWN
THE...LOOK, LET'S
NOT TALK ABOUT
THAT RIGHT NOW. WE
SHOULD GO. I HAVE A
PLANET IN MIND--
OUTER RIM. THE SORT
OF PLACE WE COULD
REALLY SET
OURSELVES UP.

I HAVE SOME
CONNECTIONS
THERE. THEY'LL
HELP US GET A
FOOTHOLD.

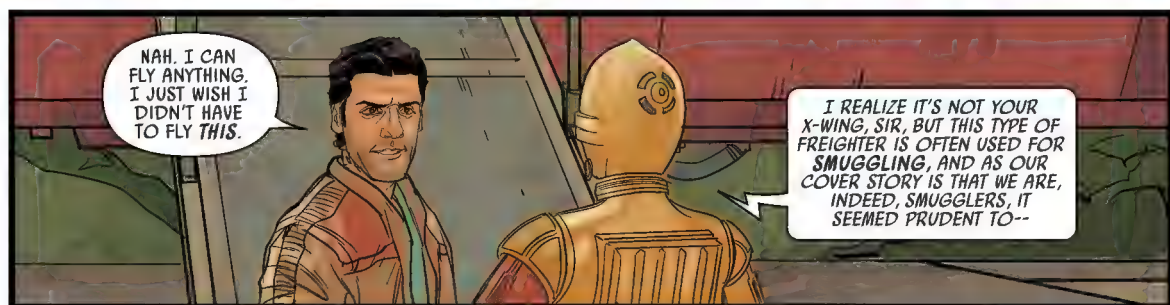
AGREED. I
JUST HAVE TO
GET ONE THING,
AND THEN I'LL
BE READY TO
GO.



BWA-WOO
BOOP.

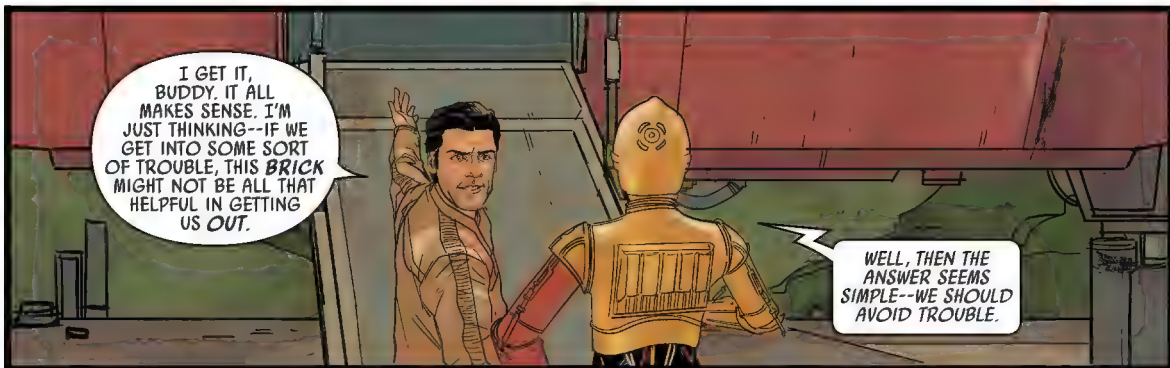
YOU SAID IT,
BEEBEE-ATE. JUST
LOOK AT THIS
BEAST.

ARE YOU
UNFAMILIAR WITH
THE OPERATION
OF THIS CLASS
OF SHIP, SIR?



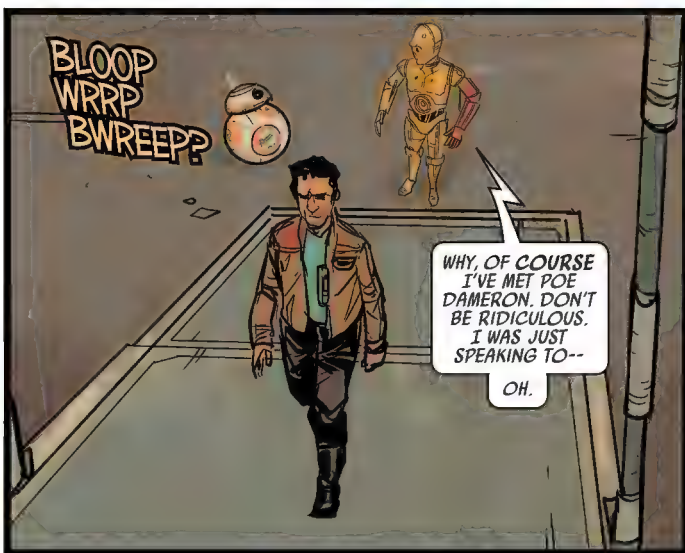
NAH. I CAN
FLY ANYTHING.
I JUST WISH I
DIDN'T HAVE
TO FLY **THIS**.

I REALIZE IT'S NOT YOUR
X-WING, SIR, BUT THIS TYPE OF
FREIGHTER IS OFTEN USED FOR
SMUGGLING, AND AS OUR
COVER STORY IS THAT WE ARE,
INDEED, **SMUGGLERS**, IT
SEEMED PRUDENT TO--



I GET IT,
BUDDY. IT ALL
MAKES SENSE. I'M
JUST THINKING--IF WE
GET INTO SOME SORT
OF TROUBLE, THIS **BRICK**
MIGHT NOT BE ALL THAT
HELPFUL IN GETTING
US **OUT**.

WELL, THEN THE
ANSWER SEEMS
SIMPLE--WE SHOULD
AVOID TROUBLE.



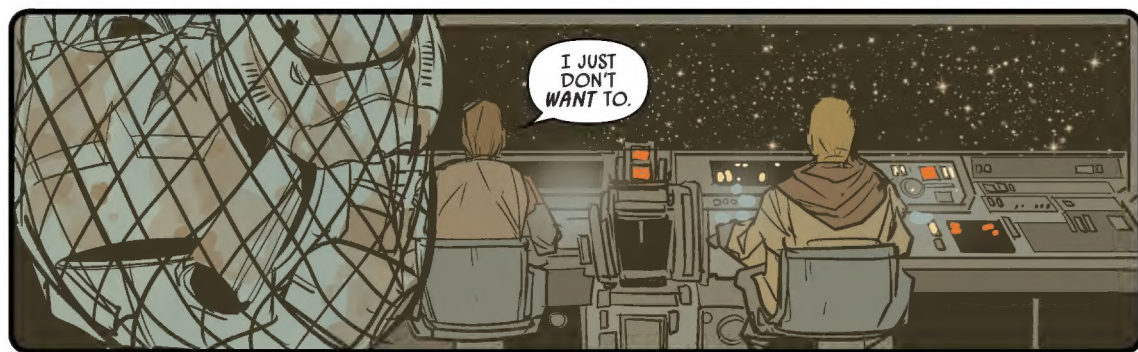
BLOOP
WRRP
BWREEP?

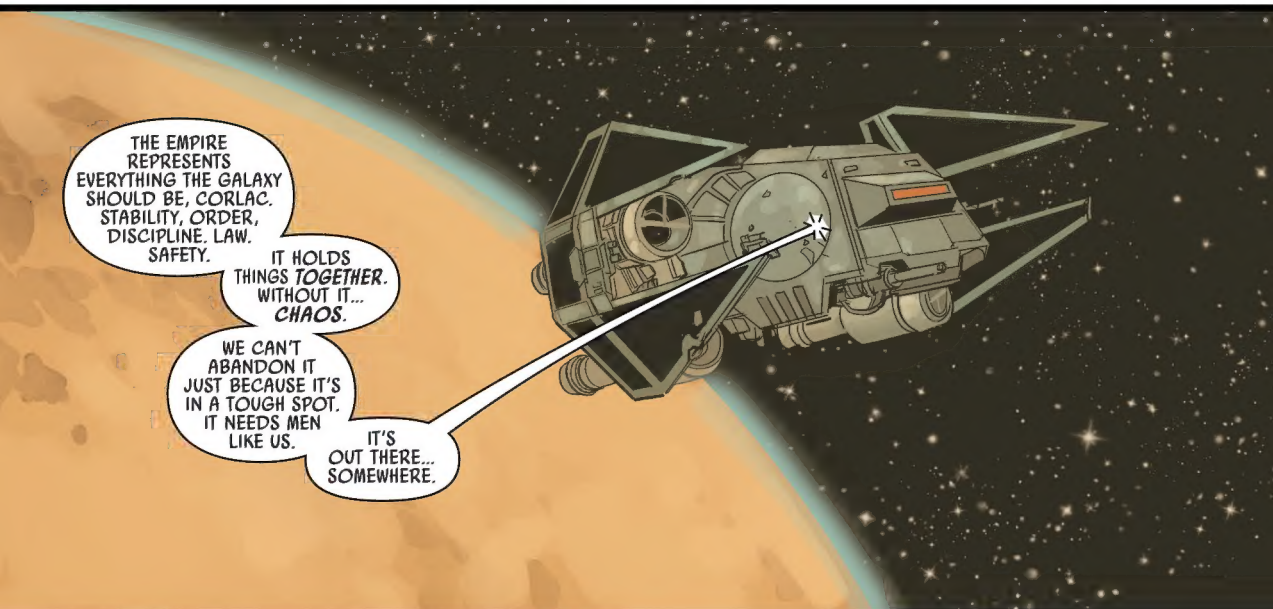
WHY, OF COURSE
I'VE MET POE
DAMERON. DON'T
BE RIDICULOUS.
I WAS JUST
SPEAKING TO--

OH.



OH,
DEAR.





THE EMPIRE REPRESENTS EVERYTHING THE GALAXY SHOULD BE, CORLAC. STABILITY, ORDER, DISCIPLINE. LAW. SAFETY.

IT HOLDS THINGS *TOGETHER*. WITHOUT IT... *CHAOS*.

WE CAN'T ABANDON IT JUST BECAUSE IT'S IN A TOUGH SPOT. IT NEEDS MEN LIKE US.

IT'S OUT THERE... SOMEWHERE.



THANK YOU *SO MUCH*, POE.

GETTING BEHIND THE CONTROLS OF A SHIP...ON AN ACTUAL *MISSION*...I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE TOO, ODDY--BUT DON'T THANK ME YET.

THIS PLANET WE'RE GOING TO IS *COMPLETELY* LAWLESS. THE NEW REPUBLIC TRIED TO BRING IT UNDER CONTROL A FEW DECADES BACK--SENT A GOOD-SIZED FLEET.

NONE OF THEM CAME BACK. NOT ONE. THIS PLACE IS *BAD NEWS*.



BUT SIR... WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO *DO*?

WHATEVER YOU WANT. THIS PLANET CAN BE VERY... ENTERTAINING. JUST KEEP MY SHIP SAFE UNTIL I COME BACK.

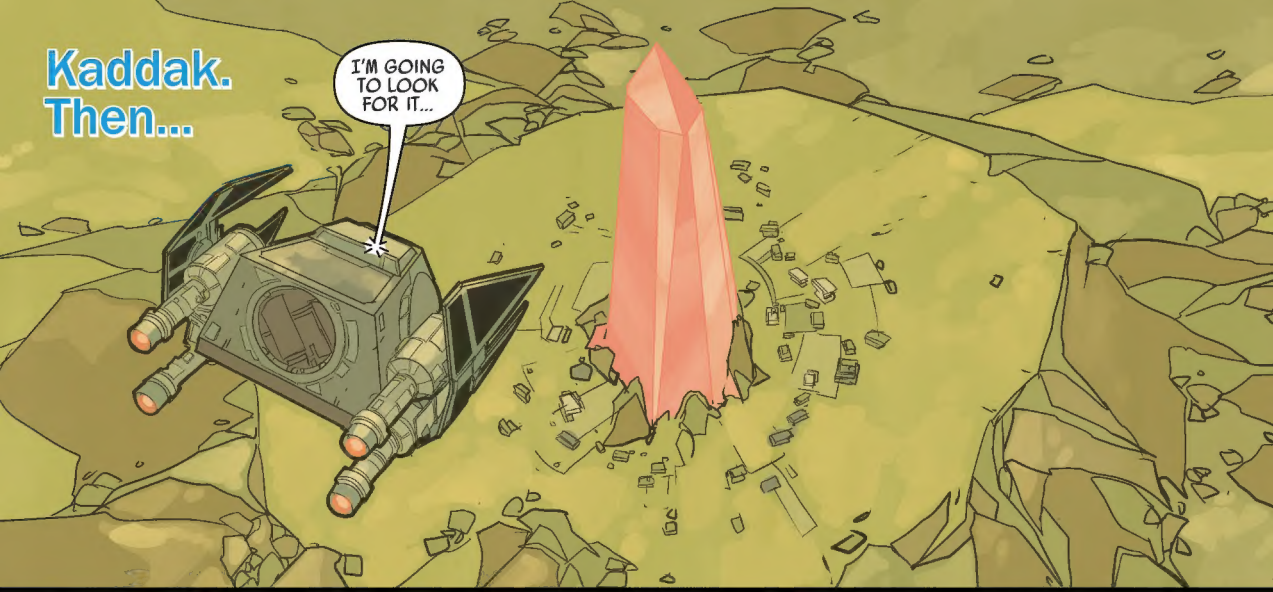
COME *BACK*? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

OH, IT'S SIMPLE, CORPORAL. IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS--RECENT *DEFEATS*, YOU MIGHT SAY, AT THE HANDS OF A LESSER MAN--IT'S BECOME CLEAR TO ME THAT I'VE LOST SOMETHING.

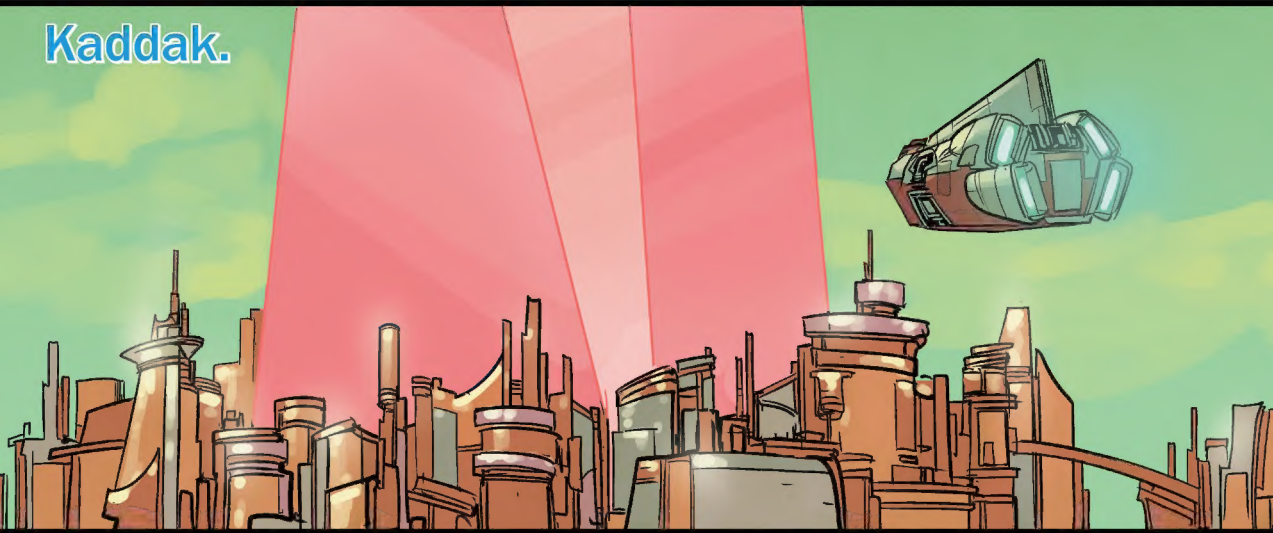
SOMETHING IMPORTANT.

Kaddak.
Then...

I'M GOING
TO LOOK
FOR IT...

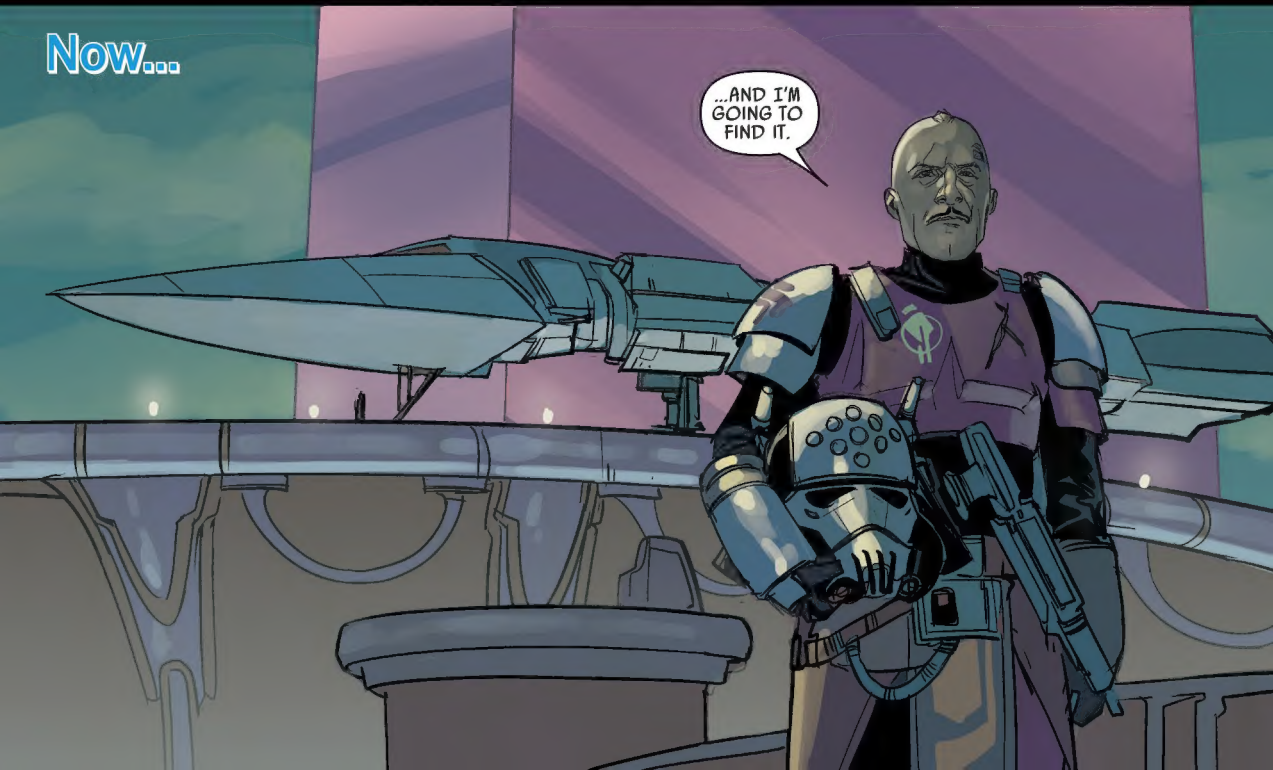


Kaddak.



Now...

...AND I'M
GOING TO
FIND IT.



POE DAMERON

NEXT ISSUE:

